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City offers new online permits

Indianapolis - The Department of Metropolitan Development is now offering additional online services through the Division of Permits.

Master Permits, which allow homebuilders to consolidate the permitting process for construction in new subdivisions, are now available at www.civicnet.net/permits.

The new online process will save contractor's time and money.

"It's a lot faster, easier and cheaper than it used to be," said Brian Mitchell, who handles permits for Earl Gray Plumbing. "When we used the fax service, it cost seven dollars and took three days to get a permit. Now it's three dollars and we get the permit the same day."

Once permit applications are received through the Web site, they are reviewed by division staff. Within several hours, customers are notified by email once permits are approved and can print the actual permit from the site.

In 2001, more than half of all right-of-way and plumbing permits and one-quarter of all sewer-related permits were processed electronically. These online services give staff more time to work with customers who might need more extensive assistance.

"Implementing new technology in providing city services is a top priority," said Maury Plambeck, director of the Department of Metropolitan Development. "We will continue to look for innovative ways to streamline our services to better serve the public."

The internet services for the Division of Permits are developed by CivicNet, the eCommerce Web site for the City of Indianapolis and Marion County. For a nominal fee, customers who subscribe to the site are able to access online permits, as well as court records, police records and property information.

In addition to Master Permits, electrical, heating and cooling and structural permits are also available through the site.